

1999 Governor's Awards for Excellence in Recycling

City of Valparaiso--With continuous population growth and annexation, Valparaiso's recycling numbers continue to climb while city waste going to the landfill declines. The city recycled 43 percent of its solid waste last year at its own material recovery facility. City services also include composting of yard waste and household hazardous waste recycling. Proper curbside separation and decontamination ensure collected recyclables make it to market. When contamination occurs in curbside collection, city workers leave a brochure in the resident's bin to re-educate them on proper procedures. The Porter County SWMD holds Valparaiso up as a model for municipal recycling.

Cooper Tire & Rubber Co., Engineering Products Division (Auburn)--Cooper Tire & Rubber Company manufactures a variety of rubber products. The company became a model in the rubber industry, decreasing waste going to the landfill by 4.3 million pounds in 1998, despite increased production. The company reused or recycled pallets, tri-walls, drums, cardboard, rubber and spent paint filters. The company also implemented processes preventing waste from occurring and kept hazardous materials out of the environment.

Crane Naval Surface Warfare Center (Crane)--In 1998, Crane recycled more than 28,000,000 pounds of material, saving taxpayers almost \$2.4 million and creating revenues of \$1.6 million. Crane employees recycle an exhaustive list of materials and innovative practices include paperless acquisitions, using railroad ties made from recycled plastic, the rescue and reuse of office furniture and drywall from buildings earmarked for demolition, and the reclamation and reuse of computer consoles, assemblies and modules from decommissioned ships. The battery recycling program realized savings of more than \$2 million. Crane also developed the Department of Defense's first reclamation project to return explosives to military use, reprocessing more than 1.2 million pounds of plastic explosives and saving more than \$19 million. Crane also buys recycled products.

Dubois County Solid Waste Management District (Huntingburg)--In Dubois County, waste diversion from the landfill grew from 53 percent in 1997 to 58 percent in 1998. The county continues to develop alternatives for the community to reuse and recycle the usual commodities and hazardous wastes. In partnership with area waste haulers and recyclers, the county collects 16 individual commodities for recycling in eight recycling and solid waste collection centers. Curbside recycling is available to county residents, as well as a biannual household hazardous waste and bulky item collection. The district expanded its agriculture program to collect and process plastic pesticide jugs and farm machinery waste oil.

East Central Solid Waste Management District (Anderson)--The East Central SWMD helped turn 1.3 million pounds of tires into playground mulch for schools and parks in 1998. Each of the district's three counties sponsored Tire Amnesty Days on three Saturdays in June, and collected more than 31,000 tires. CR3 in Muncie ground them into SafeGround™, a rubber mulch playground surface. The district awarded \$234,243 in grants to eighteen community parks, nine school playgrounds, and one metro football league field to buy the mulch from CR3 and use it as ground cover. CR3 also recycled the steel from the rims.

Eli Lilly and Company--Tippecanoe Laboratories (Lafayette)--Eli Lilly and Company's Tippecanoe Laboratories shares the rewards of recycling with the community by donating revenues generated from recycling activities to various community programs. Lilly donates used paper other than white office paper to a Lafayette company that uses it to make cardboard tubes to hold shrink wrap. A variety of packaging materials are donated to a local shipping company for reuse, and extra three-ring binders are donated to the Adult Reading Academy and area schools. Lilly employs mentally and physically challenged adults to collect and sort recycling at the facility. They recycled 1,650,000 pounds of materials in 1998.

Fairfield Manufacturing Co. Inc. (Lafayette)--Despite major growth in the production of custom gears and drive systems, Fairfield Manufacturing recycled 52 percent of its waste in 1998, including 1,275 tons of pallets, cardboard, office paper, aluminum cans, coolant, oil, and scrap metal. The pallet program alone saves the plant \$60,834 annually in avoided disposal costs and purchases. The company buys recycled materials whenever possible, including \$6 million of 100 percent recycled steel bearings and 26,000 tons of steel made from 100 percent scrap steel in 1998, as well as recycled solvent and post-consumer recycled-content packing materials.

GDC Inc. (Goshen)--GDC Inc. makes a business of recycling tire rubber into automobile parts for major automotive manufacturers. The company uses 3,000,000 pounds of recycled tire rubber annually to make radiator baffles, splash shields that protect engine parts, truck bed mats, and mud flaps, among other products. GDC purchases the rubber from Envirotech Extrusions, another Indiana company located in Richmond. Business grew 65 percent, and GDC hired 10 additional workers in 1998 as a result of the recycled tire market venture.

Grissom Recycling Service, Grissom Air Reserve Base--Grissom Air Reserve Base in northern Indiana has the highest solid waste diversion rate (50.22%) of any base in the Air Force Reserve. It far exceeds the Department of Defense's 40 percent by 2005 diversion goal. Base construction contractors return or reuse scrap metal and wood debris. The wood debris provides landscaping mulch at the base. Grissom recycles cardboard, paper, plastic, aluminum cans, specialty metals and office recyclables. Less conventional materials include antifreeze, fluorescent light bulbs, used oil, oil and fuel filters, cleaning solvents, compact diskettes, laser toner cartridges, and alkaline batteries.

Harold Gingerich (Topeka)--Gingerich has supplied commitment, common sense planning, and positive energy over the past decade to create successful recycling programs in northeast Indiana and statewide. As early as 1988, Gingerich was involved in solid waste management planning, and he has served on the board of the Northeast Indiana SWMD either as president or vice president since its creation in 1991. He was instrumental in the creation and development of the Association of Indiana Solid Waste Management Districts, most recently serving as president. He brought together disparate parties and regional agendas to focus on the best management of Indiana's solid waste. Practical legislative changes have resulted from his counsel.

Lake County Solid Waste Management District (Douglas Center for Environmental Education)--Lake County SWMD partnered with the National Park Service to create an innovative, hands-on solid waste education program at the Douglas Center for Environmental Education. Children who come to the center learn about cycles in nature; in particular, composting, recycling, and endangered species. A strong belief that children learn best by doing is the driving force behind the curriculum. Games teach children about earthworms and insects that decompose material, the value of nutrient-rich topsoil, and how to put yard waste and table scraps to good use. Student participation at the Douglas Center has increased 90 percent since this educational partnership began.

Madison Chemical Co. (Madison)--Madison Chemical Company credits 100 percent employee participation for segregating trash and recyclables in the office and plant. They report these environmental practices pay for themselves, usually many times over. In addition to conventional recycled materials, the company developed a method to return rinse water and valuable chemicals back into the production run of similar and compatible products, saving significant dollars on material purchases and waste disposal. They aggressively reuse and recycle chemical drum containers, even buying reusable drums; and they saved \$80,000 in 1998 due to source reduction/recycling efforts.

Owen County Recycling Center (Spencer)--The Friends of Owen County, a local group of residents as well as individual volunteers, worked with the Owen County commissioners to establish the Owen County Recycling Center, which opened in July 1997, one month before the local landfill closed. IDEM awarded two grants to purchase equipment, and additional funding came from business and individual donations, proceeds from the sale of the county courthouse copper dome, the Clay-Owen-Vigo Solid Waste Management District, the Owen County Soil & Water Conservation District, and from the sale of recyclables. About 800 residents drop off approximately 48 tons of material monthly. Proceeds from the sale of recycled newspapers go to the Humane Society to purchase new kennels.

Pike County Solid Waste Management District (Petersburg)--Pike County SWMD, located in sparsely populated southwestern Indiana, has developed programs and services rivaling its big-city peers. Utilizing public, private, and non-profit resources, the district provides its 12,500 residents with comprehensive, convenient, and efficient waste-reduction services. The county's drop-off sites collected more than 360 tons of recyclables in 1997 and 1998, and no resident is more than 10 miles from a recycling site. Agreements with local businesses and agencies provide avenues for composting, used clothing collections, appliance/tire recycling, illegal dump cleanups, and household hazardous waste processing.

Regional Household Hazardous Waste Task Force (Bloomington)--The Regional Household Hazardous Waste Task Force carried out a phenomenally successful statewide Mercury Awareness Program (M.A.P.) in 1998. The aim of the program, which is ongoing, is to educate Indiana residents about the health and environmental hazards associated with mercury and provide statewide recycling opportunities for mercury and mercury-containing products. In October 1998, every county of the state held a household mercury collection event, collecting and recycling more than 2,100 pounds of mercury and mercury-containing items. A host of partners collaborated to make the effort a success, including solid waste management districts, sanitary districts, IDEM, health departments, universities, city governments, and Cinergy Corp., M.A.P.'s corporate partner. The Task Force chose mercury because of increasing evidence that improper disposal of mercury-containing items, such as thermometers and fluorescent lamps, is contributing to the mercury contamination of Indiana's waterways.

SASCO Waste Management Program (Scottsburg, Austin)--SASCO is a cooperative effort among the city of Scottsburg, the town of Austin, and Scott County to provide efficient, cost-effective waste management and recycling services for Scott County residents. When the county landfill reached capacity and closed, county officials got serious about waste disposal costs. Working with the Southeastern SWMD, they devised a successful "Pay-as-You-Throw" approach, charging \$.75 per trash bag, and concurrently implemented a free recycling program for glass, tin, aluminum, and #1 and #2 plastics. As a result, since 1993 the SASCO program has diverted approximately 300 tons of recyclables annually in its mostly rural communities and saved hundreds of thousands of dollars in collection and landfill disposal fees.

United Technologies--Carrier Corporation (Indianapolis)--Carrier Corporation developed innovative practices to ensure that more than half of the bulk materials consumed at the plant are shipped and received in reusable containers. To get containers back to a St. Louis vendor, Carrier located a driver who delivers *The Wall Street Journal* from St. Louis to Indianapolis, then drives Carrier's containers back to the vendor. The company's comprehensive, plant-wide recycling activities decreased landfill waste from 2,049,400 pounds in 1994 to 1,434,700 in 1998--a 30 percent decrease despite a 2 percent production increase. Any profit gained by recycling is put back into employee programs.

If you would like more information about this program, contact Bobbi Steiff at (800) 988-7901, ext. 35554 or (317) 233-5554.